United Nations S/2003/858

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 September 2003

Original: English

Progress report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1320 (2000) of 15 September 2000 and provides an update on developments in the peace process since my report dated 23 June 2003 (S/2003/665). The report also describes the work and activities of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), including the assistance provided to the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, as mandated by relevant Security Council resolutions. The current mandate of UNMEE expires on 15 September 2003.

II. Status of the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas

2. The situation in the Temporary Security Zone and the adjacent areas remained generally calm during the period under review, and the opposing forces have reduced their training and related activities at forward locations on both sides of the Zone. UNMEE continued to closely monitor the positions of the Ethiopian Armed Forces and the Eritrean Defence Forces, as well as to observe the activities of the militia and the police in and around the Zone. Cooperation with all these entities remained generally good.

3. While the overall situation in the Zone has been characterized by relative stability, the recent increase in local incidents is a source of concern. Since my last report, the number of Ethiopian herdsmen and livestock entering the Zone on a daily basis in some areas in Sector Centre has increased even more. On a number of occasions, Ethiopian militia fired shots from their territory to signal to the herdsmen the presence of Eritrean militia in the vicinity. During the month of August, several more serious incidents occurred in the Aromo area of the Zone (Sector Centre). On two separate occasions on 5 August, Ethiopian militia pointed their weapons at UNMEE patrols in response to advice not to enter the Zone. On 9, 10 and 12 August, a total of 102 personnel, most of them in the Ethiopian Armed Forces uniforms, entered the Zone in the Drum Drum Stream area in the same sector, refusing to leave despite repeated protests by UNMEE at the sector level. Subsequently, UNMEE lodged strong protests with the Ethiopian authorities, including with the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs. In response, senior

03-48471 (E) 040903

Ethiopian officials expressed regret and assured the Mission that such incidents would not recur. Those incursions encroach upon the integrity of the Zone, and thus constitute a violation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities (S/2000/601, annex). If repeated, incidents of this type could lead to further tension and potential conflict among the people in the border area.

4. In Sector West, there was an increase in incidents of rustling of livestock across the southern boundary of the Temporary Security Zone. UNMEE has made determined efforts to discourage such activities and to resolve disputes at the sector level, including by facilitating the exchange of cattle across the southern boundary of the Zone. In this respect, the area around Humera Bridge in Sector West has been particularly sensitive, owing to past shooting incidents. In order to effectively monitor the area, UNMEE has constructed two watchtowers, one at Om Hajer on the Eritrean side and another at Humera on the Ethiopian side. Both parties have accepted the Mission's proposal in this regard. In addition, UNMEE continues to update and refine its patrolling and monitoring activities throughout the Zone and the adjacent areas, in order to have the best possible grasp of events and developments on the ground.

5. As part of its efforts to promote confidence between the two sides, UNMEE, in close cooperation with the parties and with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), carried out "Operation Rest in Peace", recovering and repatriating mortal remains of fallen soldiers recently discovered in the former battlefields of Bala and Sabalita in Sector East. The operation culminated in the handover on 25 July of 220 bodies to the Ethiopian military authorities at Bure in a formal and solemn ceremony attended by my Special Representative, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, and the Force Commander of UNMEE.

Freedom of movement

6. The two parties continue to impose restrictions on the Mission's freedom of movement in the Temporary Security Zone and the adjacent areas, particularly in Sector Centre. As a further obstacle to the effectiveness of UNMEE patrols, restrictions have occasionally been placed on the movement of their local language assistants. All such restrictions on freedom of movement have been brought to the attention of the relevant authorities in both countries, who have reiterated their commitment to ensure the unrestricted movement of UNMEE personnel.

7. Regrettably, there has been no improvement with regard to the difficulties, mentioned in my last reports, experienced by UNMEE staff entering and exiting Ethiopia and Eritrea at the airports in the two capitals. In addition to the visa requirements for UNMEE personnel, which are in contravention of the model status-of-forces agreement, the Government of Eritrea has recently decided that prior approval is required for non-Mission passengers arriving in Eritrea on UNMEE carriers, despite the fact that they have been granted Eritrean visas. The new measures make it unnecessarily difficult for the Mission's partners, including representatives of the guarantors and witnesses of the Algiers Agreements, as well as United Nations staff, to travel between the two countries, thus affecting their efforts in support of the peace process. My Special Representative has strongly objected to the decision of the Government of Eritrea.

8. I also regret to report the parties' continued failure to overcome their differences with regard to a direct high-altitude route for UNMEE flights between

Addis Ababa and Asmara. The longer and more complicated flights have serious security implications for the Mission's staff, and have so far resulted in additional costs totalling over US$ 2.6 million. At this advanced stage of the peace process, I once again appeal to the parties to reconsider their positions on this important issue, and I would welcome any support from Member States, which would assist the parties to take the action required to eliminate this needless, costly and arbitrary requirement.

Military Coordination Commission

9. The Military Coordination Commission held its seventeenth and eighteenth meetings on 16 June and 30 July, respectively, in Nairobi. Matters discussed during the meetings included demining in support of demarcation; the recovery and repatriation of mortal remains in Sector East; demobilization and restructuring of the armed forces of the two countries; the schedule of the order of activities recently issued by the Boundary Commission, as well as security of the Commission's contractors and other demarcation-related issues. Unfortunately UNMEE efforts at making the parties agree to hold future meetings of the Commission alternately in the two capitals have not borne fruit. The nineteenth meeting of the Commission is therefore scheduled for 17 September in Nairobi.

Status of the Mission and related issues

10. As at 29 August, the total strength of the UNMEE military component stood at 4,088 of the authorized strength of 4,200. This comprised 3,762 troops, 111 headquarters staff officers and 215 military observers (see annex II).

11. My Special Representative continues to protest against the Government of Eritrea's imposition of national service obligations on local staff members, and the restrictions imposed on UNMEE recruitment of local staff. In a letter dated 3 June 2003 to the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations, the Secretariat has clarified the legal regime applicable to the appointment and status of locally recruited staff, and explained that Eritrea is under an international obligation not to interfere with the recruitment and performance of such personnel. Nevertheless, the Eritrean authorities continue to maintain their position that local staff must discharge their national service obligations, and some Eritreans working for UNMEE have been detained. Such treatment of local staff is obviously unacceptable. On a related issue, I would like to renew my appeal to the Government of Eritrea, consistent with repeated requests by the Security Council, to sign the status-of-forces agreement with the United Nations. Meanwhile, the model status-of-forces agreement continues to be in effect.

III. Boundary Commission and Claims Commission

Boundary Commission

12. During this reporting period, the Boundary Commission held an internal meeting in New York on 10 and 11 August, discussing technical issues relating to the demarcation of the border, including demarcation instructions for Sectors West and Centre. My Special Representative was invited to attend part of the meeting, in order to brief the Commission on the efforts of UNMEE to provide support for demarcation. He also discussed means and modalities of monitoring the parties'

fulfilment of their responsibilities to provide security for the Commission's field staff and contractors, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. Meanwhile, additional field work in Sector East has enabled the Commission to prepare marked maps, showing the line and proposed sites for the boundary pillars in that sector. The maps were sent to the parties for comments on 21 August. Additional information on the recent work of the Boundary Commission and its plans for demarcation, provided by its President, is contained in annex I.

13. In fulfilment of its adjusted mandate under resolution 1430 (2002), UNMEE has continued to provide administrative and logistical support to the Boundary Commission, as well as to undertake mine clearance in key areas in support of demarcation. In view of the Commission's schedule of the order of activities ahead as at 16 July 2003 (S/2003/665/Add.1), UNMEE has further refined its work plan, and has intensified its demining activities in the border areas, including access routes to possible boundary pillar sites. However, finalization of these plans continues to be dependent on receipt from the Boundary Commission of complete information regarding the exact locations of pillar sites. While the locations of pillar sites in Sector East have been provisionally established, those in Sectors West and Centre remain undetermined.

14. As I have stated in my previous reports, the costs related to civilian demining and demarcation contractors and the provision of administrative and logistical support to the field offices of the Boundary Commission are being funded from the United Nations Trust Fund for the Delimitation and Demarcation of the Border. Voluntary contributions and pledges to the Trust Fund currently total some $10.4 million. In my last report it was indicated that at least an additional $4.1 million would be required to complete the demarcation of the whole border. Of this, $2 million is urgently needed to award contracts so that demarcation can start in Sector East as scheduled.

Claims Commission

15. The first awards of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Claims Commission, established pursuant to article 5 of the Algiers Peace Agreement of 12 December 2000, were issued on 1 July 2003. The awards concerned the treatment of prisoners of war by Ethiopia and Eritrea during the 1998-2000 conflict. While the Commission noted its belief that the two parties were committed to the most fundamental principles bearing on prisoners of war, it made 12 findings of liability for violation of international law against Eritrea and 8 findings against Ethiopia. The most serious issues of liability against Ethiopia were the failure to provide a proper diet and the delay in repatriation. The most serious issues of liability against Eritrea concerned the refusal to allow ICRC to visit prisoner-of-war camps between May 1998 and August 2000, failing to protect Ethiopian prisoners of war from being killed at capture and permitting pervasive and continuous physical and mental abuse.

IV. Mine action

16. While progress in mine clearing continues to be made, landmines and unexploded ordnance continue to threaten the lives and hamper the work of the population of both countries, as well as United Nations staff and humanitarian personnel operating on the ground. From the beginning of June to mid-August, 14

incidents involving mines and unexploded ordnance occurred in Sectors West and Centre, in which two civilians were killed and 17 injured. Investigations were conducted, and the preliminary reports of the findings were compiled and distributed to the relevant parties. The Mission's investigations indicate that some of the mines in Sector West were newly planted by unknown perpetrators. In view of the recent spate of incidents, the UNMEE Mine Action Coordination Centre has developed an integrated Mission response to deal with the increasing number of incidents, and a revised mine and unexploded ordnance threat assessment was issued at the end of July 2003. From the beginning of June to 10 August, UNMEE deminers destroyed 62 mines and 821 pieces of unexploded ordnance, and cleared approximately 2.4 million square metres of land and 282.5 kilometres of road. Route verification and road clearance for Sector West were completed in mid-July 2003.

V. Humanitarian developments

17. The drought in Ethiopia and Eritrea remains a major concern for the United Nations country teams in the two countries; more than 13.2 million people in Ethiopia and 2 million in Eritrea are in need of relief assistance. Because of the severity and pervasiveness of this year's drought in both countries, malnutrition leaves increasing numbers of people, particularly children and pregnant women, vulnerable to disease, sickness and death. Furthermore, vulnerability to HIV infection and the aggravation of existing conditions of those with HIV/AIDS are now recognized side-effects of humanitarian crises such as the current one in the Horn of Africa. If inadequate public health services and shortages of trained staff are factored into the situation, the impact of this year's drought will be felt for many years to come. It is therefore encouraging to note that both Ethiopia and Eritrea are now fully engaged in developing longer-term strategies to deal with the problems of recurring drought and poverty. I again urge donors to continue supporting relief assistance programmes, as well as longer-term strategies and related initiatives in both countries.

18. In view of the seriousness of the situation, I appointed Martti Ahtisaari as my Special Envoy for the Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa in June 2003. Following the visit earlier that month of the United Nations Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Carolyn McAskie, my Special Envoy made his first visit to the region in July and met with the leaders of both Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as with senior Government officials, and representatives from the donor community and United Nations agencies. Upon his return, he expressed his pleasure at the high level of commitment to the relief efforts on the part of the two Governments and United Nations partners. He was deeply concerned, however, that, while pledges for food and non-food items in Ethiopia were good, food and non-food aid pledges for Eritrea were still well short of the target. I urge all donors to carefully review the recently released Eritrea 2003 Consolidated Appeal Process mid-year review document and the addendum to the joint Government-United Nations appeal for Ethiopia, and contribute generously to the appeals of both countries.

Quick-impact projects

19. Utilizing funds from the assessed budget as well as donations from the Governments of Ireland, the Netherlands and Norway, UNMEE and its implementing partners have completed a total of 77 quick-impact projects in the

areas of water, education and health and sanitation, and 31 additional projects have been approved. As the effects of the drought and the conflict continue to be felt by those living in the border areas, quick-impact projects play an important role in improving the lives of people in those communities. The projects are also very helpful in promoting good relations between UNMEE personnel and the population in whose midst they work and live. I therefore hope that donors will continue to support the Trust Fund with additional contributions.

HIV/AIDS

20. UNMEE continued its efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, and the thirteenth "training-of-trainers" course was held in July. Recently inducted staff of the UNMEE Mine Action Coordination Centre, as well as personnel of newly rotated contingents, benefited in particular from being trained together with members of an association of people living with HIV/AIDS in Eritrea. In an effort to reach out to a wider audience, some of the local population have received awareness training. In addition, HIV/AIDS awareness was raised through briefings to some 900 students and staff of schools in the Mission area.

VI. Human rights

21. On 6 August, my Special Representative wrote to the Ethiopian authorities requesting access for UNMEE to refugee camps in areas adjacent to the Temporary Security Zone, and specifically to the camp near Shiraro where some 5,600 Eritrean refugees and asylum-seekers are housed. So far, UNMEE has been prevented from visiting the camp, which includes some 3,500 ethnic Kunama people who left Gash Barka after Ethiopian forces withdrew from the region. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is currently holding discussions with the Eritrean and Ethiopian authorities on the voluntary return of the Kunama population.

22. On 22 August, a total of 213 Ethiopian and 6 Eritrean civilians were repatriated to their respective countries under the auspices of ICRC in two simultaneous operations across the Mereb River in Sector Centre.

23. The needs of separated, displaced and refugee children on both sides of the conflict require further attention. Of particular concern are issues relating to juvenile justice, including the arbitrary detention of children. An Eritrean minor held in custody since the end of March 2003, after he illegally crossed into Ethiopia, was reunited with his family on 25 June, with the assistance of UNMEE. Three more Eritrean minors detained under similar circumstances were repatriated on 22 August with ICRC assistance and reunited with their families.

24. The Mission's presence in the region serves to deter human rights violations and to promote and monitor the implementation of the international norms and standards for the protection of the rights and well-being of civilians, including children. However, the Mission continues to face difficulties in gaining access to Ethiopian civilians arrested by Eritrean security officials within the Temporary Security Zone in Sector East. The whereabouts of four Afar men, whose arrest on 25 June was witnessed by peacekeepers, remains unknown.

VII. Public information

25. UNMEE continues to disseminate information about the peace process and the work of the Mission through a variety of means, including its radio programmes, which are transmitted over Eritrea's airwaves, and reach listeners in most of Eritrea and in parts of Ethiopia by short wave. A great deal of local interest has been expressed in two documentaries, "First steps to peace" and the more recent "Next steps to peace", produced by UNMEE.

26. In my last progress report, I highlighted the value of the four UNMEE outreach centres, established primarily to provide the public of the two countries with credible and easily accessible information on UNMEE activities in support of the peace process. The centres in Ethiopia, located in Addis Ababa and in Mekelle, continue to attract an increasing number of visitors. I regret to report, however, that the centres in Eritrea are facing difficulties. Beginning on 17 June, Eritrean authorities stationed an armed, uniformed Eritrean Defence Force guard at the entrance of the outreach centre at Barentu, in Sector West, checking identification cards and often preventing Eritrean visitors from entering the premises. On 10 July, the armed guard was replaced by an unarmed Eritrean Defence Force military policeman in civilian clothes. On 22 July, two unarmed policemen were placed outside the Asmara outreach centre. In response to repeated démarches by my Special Representative and his staff, the Eritrean authorities have cited their obligation to "protect Eritrean children" from certain information. The matter has also been raised with the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations. For the time being, both outreach centres in Eritrea remain open, but if the Eritrean public's ability to visit them continues to be restricted, their future status will have to be reassessed. I appeal to Eritrea to reconsider its position, allowing UNMEE to continue to provide valuable information to the Eritrean population on the work of the United Nations in general and the peace process in particular.

VIII. Financial aspects

27. The General Assembly, by its resolution 57/328 of 18 June 2003, appropriated the amount of $188.4 million, equivalent to $15.7 million per month, for the maintenance of UNMEE for the financial period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNMEE beyond 15 September 2003, the cost of maintaining the Mission would be limited to the amount approved by the General Assembly. As at 31 July 2003, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNMEE amounted to $51.9 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at 31 July 2003 amounted to $1,306.3 million.

IX. Observations

28. As already noted in this report, the overall situation in the Temporary Security Zone and the adjacent areas remains generally calm and secure, and the military postures of the two parties indicate that they have no intention of resuming hostilities. Indeed, they have continued to emphasize that they need peace, in order to focus on the challenges they each face domestically. I am encouraged by these

assurances, and commend the two Governments for their continuing commitment to the Algiers Agreements.

29. Incidents at the local level in and around the Temporary Security Zone have become more frequent, however, which is a source of concern. This increase may be a sign of a growing uneasiness among the people living in the border area, resulting from the uncertainties inherent in an un-demarcated border. I therefore urge the two Governments to do their utmost to prevent cross-border incidents before they escalate. Even more important, however, is that they proceed with the expeditious demarcation of the border.

30. Security Council members will recall that, in July, the Boundary Commission, in an addendum to its ninth report, issued a schedule of the order of activities ahead. The first item on that schedule was the appointment of field liaison officers for the remaining demarcation activities. Eritrea has now made these appointments and Ethiopia should do the same without delay. In addition, the schedule called for the commencement late in August of the factual survey of the Tserona and Zalambessa areas as well as the field assessment of pillar sites in Sectors West and Centre. In the absence of Ethiopian field liaison officers, as well as in view of the fact that the Commission's field offices are still awaiting the necessary security assurances from the parties, it has not been possible for the Commission to commence the field surveys. It should be recalled that, in accordance with the schedule, the surveys should be completed in September (Sector Centre) and October (Sector West). Another crucial test of the parties' commitment to the process will come in October, when pillar emplacement is scheduled to begin in Sector East. The importance of the parties' doing everything to enable the Commission to maintain its timetable cannot be overemphasized. I call on the two Governments to provide full cooperation to the Commission and its field offices so that the border can be demarcated as soon as possible.

31. As stated in my previous report, a lasting peace would require a relationship between the parties that enabled them to address, through peaceful discourse, any problems that might arise between them. An important step in that direction would be the initiation of political dialogue between the two Governments, with a view to the eventual normalization of relations. Sadly, in the intervening three months, neither party has made discernible moves towards true neighbourliness. As a result, both sides are left, even now, with a "cold peace" that is not conducive to the benefits — economic, social, cultural and other — that would normally accrue to peoples sharing a long border.

32. The peace process must not be allowed to lose momentum. A great deal of precious time, effort and resources have been invested since the end of the hostilities by the parties themselves, as well as by the international community and key supporters of the peace process. While the final steps of the peace process may be the most difficult, they are also the most important for the future of the two countries and must be taken sooner rather than later. In the same voluntary manner as the two parties created the Boundary Commission and selected its members, they must now accept its decisions and assist it in the expeditious demarcation of the border. At the same time, Ethiopia and Eritrea will have to come to terms with the fact that they are destined by geography to remain neighbours, and that normalization of relations, while difficult, will be to the great benefit of both countries and their peoples.

33. The international community stands ready to assist the two parties through these endeavours. However, as indicated by the Security Council in its presidential statement of 17 July (SPRST/2003/10), the delays in the demarcation process are a source of concern, particularly given the operational cost of UNMEE at a time of growing demands on United Nations peacekeeping, most recently exemplified by developments elsewhere on the African continent. UNMEE was created for limited purposes and was never meant to be a permanent arrangement. The time may be approaching when the parties will have to be more actively assisted in fulfilling both the letter and the spirit of the Algiers Agreements and concluding the process without further delay. Some of the parties' closest friends and allies could play a crucial role in this regard. In the meantime, UNMEE must continue to carry out its essential mandate, which I recommend should be extended for an additional period of six months, until 15 March 2004.

34. During the process of demarcation, the parties will need the full support of the international community, political as well as financial. The drought-induced famine in Ethiopia and Eritrea is taking its toll on populations that were already suffering from the effects of conflict. While it is encouraging to note that both countries are committed to developing longer-term strategies to address the underlying causes of recurring drought and poverty, I again urge donors to continue their generous support for relief assistance programmes. In addition, urgent contributions to the Trust Fund for the Delimitation and Demarcation of the Border will be required.

35. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to my Special Representative, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, and all the military and civilian personnel of UNMEE for their determined and hard work in support of the parties' efforts towards a lasting peace. I am also grateful for the invaluable contribution of the United Nations country teams and other humanitarian workers working on the ground, the consistent support of interested Member States and the African Union, as well as the resolve and steadfastness of the Boundary Commission.

Annex I

Tenth report on the work of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission

1. This is the tenth report of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, covering the period from 10 June to 29 August 2003.

2. Following the issuance of its ninth report as an annex to the progress report of the Secretary General on Ethiopia and Eritrea (S/2003/665), the Commission issued a schedule of the order of activities ahead as at 16 July 2003, which was published as an addendum to that report (S/2003/665/Add.1).

3. To the extent possible, demarcation activities are continuing in accordance with that schedule. Following the receipt, on 11 June 2003, of the parties' comments on the Commission's pillar site assessment survey for the Eastern Sector, the Commission instructed the demarcation team to undertake certain additional field work in that sector. The Secretary then prepared marked maps showing, with respect to that sector, the line prescribed in the delimitation decision and the proposed sites of the boundary pillars. These maps were sent to the parties on 21 August 2003. As provided in the Commission's demarcation directions, the parties have 15 days to comment on these maps.

4. Early in July, the United Nations Headquarters Committee on Contracts approved the selection of contractors for boundary pillar emplacement and the as-built survey of boundary pillars for the entire boundary. Upon signature of the contracts, which are currently being negotiated, deployment of staff and shipment of equipment by contractors to the Eastern Sector can begin; actual pillar emplacement is scheduled to commence shortly thereafter.

5. Preparations for pillar emplacement continue in the remaining two sectors. In August, the Commission held internal meetings to resolve certain technical issues relating to the demarcation in those sectors. After considering the parties' comments of 24 January, 15 April and 2 May 2003, the Commission issued instructions to the demarcation team for implementing the plan of work set out in the schedule of the order of activities ahead as at 16 July 2003, including preparation of the factual survey of Tserona and Zalambessa and field assessment of pillar sites in the Central and Western Sectors. Those instructions were communicated to the parties on 22 August.

6. On 17 June 2003, both parties submitted their comments on the Special Consultant's report of 2 June 2003 pursuant to paragraph 15 B of the demarcation directions, dealing with a dispute that had arisen between the parties with respect to their field liaison officers. The Commission's decision on this dispute was communicated to the parties on 7 July, and issued as Security Council document S/2003/752 on 18 July 2003. The decision calls upon the parties to appoint new field liaison officers, and amends the demarcation directions to provide for an exchange of background information concerning field liaison officers. In response, Eritrea notified the Commission on 26 August 2003 of the appointment of its field liaison officers.

7. Late in July, Eritrea approved the establishment of contractors' accommodation and meal facilities at Barentu. Preparations are continuing for the establishment of similar facilities in Adigrat and Assab.

8. Ensuring the security of field office staff and contractors' personnel is essential to the demarcation process. In the light of the imminent deployment of contractors' personnel to the Eastern Sector and the ongoing demarcation activities contemplated by the current schedule in the Western and Central Sectors, the Commission has reminded the parties of their complete and sole responsibility, within the areas under their control, for ensuring the safety of all demarcation personnel. The Commission has specifically requested the Parties to develop — in consultation with the Chief Surveyor — detailed procedures for ensuring the security of all demarcation personnel, including arrangements for communication at all necessary levels (central and local government, interministerial, and local population), and for facilitating the role of UNMEE, as affirmed inter alia by the Security Council in resolution 1466 (2003) of 14 March 2003, in monitoring those activities.

9. In conformity with its mandate, the Commission continues to work to arrange for expeditious demarcation of the boundary between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Despite the Commission's efforts, however, compliance with the timeline set out in the schedule of the order of activities ahead as at 16 July 2003 essentially depends on the unreserved cooperation of the two Governments, including the granting of prompt approvals for flights and site inspections.

(*Signed*) Sir Elihu **Lauterpacht**
President of the Commission

29 August 2003

Annex II

United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea: contributions as at 29 August 2003

Country	*Military observers*	*Troops*	*Staff*	*Total*	*National support element*
Algeria	8			8	
Australia			2	2	
Austria	2			2	
Bangladesh	7	168	4	179	
Benin			2	2	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9			9	
Bulgaria	5		2	7	
Canada					
China	6			6	
Croatia	7			7	
Czech Republic	2			2	
Denmark	4			4	
United Kingdom	1		2	3	1
Finland	7	183	12	202	
France			1	1	
Gambia	4		2	6	
Ghana	11		7	18	
Greece	3			3	
India	7	1 523	19	1 549	
Iran, Islamic Republic of	2			2	
Ireland					
Italy	5	61		66	16
Jordan	7	946	15	968	
Kenya	11	650	11	672	
Malaysia	7		4	11	
Namibia	3		1	4	
Nepal	5			5	
Netherlands					
Nigeria	7		4	11	
Norway	5			5	
Paraguay	2			2	
Peru	2			2	
Poland	6			6	
Romania	8			8	
Russian Federation	6			6	

Country	*Military observers*	*Troops*	*Staff*	*Total*	*National support element*
Singapore					
Slovakia		198	3	196	
Spain	3		2	5	
South Africa	5		5	10	
Sweden	6			6	
Switzerland	4			4	
Tunisia	2		3	5	
Ukraine	7			7	
United Republic of Tanzania	8		3	11	
Uruguay	5	33	3	41	
United States of America	6			7	
Zambia	10		4	14	
Total	**215**	**3 762**	**111**	**4 088**	**17**